



Lead Update

Lead Program Reports and Outreach: Targeting Lead Screening for Parents and Providers

Inside this Issue

September 2003

1 Lead Program Reports and Outreach: Targeting Lead Screening for Parents and Providers

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The Department of Health's Lead Program offers many tools to educate parents and providers about childhood lead poisoning. The Lead Program also produces a variety of reports and reminders for both parents and providers to highlight the importance of lead screening for children.

Utilizing the Department of Health's KIDSNET database, reports are generated on a weekly basis for Rhode Island-born children turning one year old. Postcards are sent to these families to encourage a lead screening for their child at the 12 Month Well-Child visit. The KIDSNET database also produces a monthly report of all 18-month-old children in Rhode Island that have not had a lead screening. A mailing sent to these parents includes a letter of encouragement to have their children lead-screened, as well as the educational brochures "Lead Poisoning: Danger in Every Corner," and the general WIC brochure, which includes guidelines for WIC application.

In addition, each KIDSNET-enrolled medical provider is offered a KIDSNET/Lead QA visit where Lead Program staff evaluate the lead screening rate for a practice and provide suggestions for rate improvement. Reports are produced from KIDSNET by provider/practice of children aged 15-36 months that appear unscreened. This report is reviewed during a site visit with the provider, which also serves as an assessment of the provider's lead screening practices.

To date, 40 practices (about half of those enrolled in KIDSNET) have received a KIDSNET/Lead QA visit.

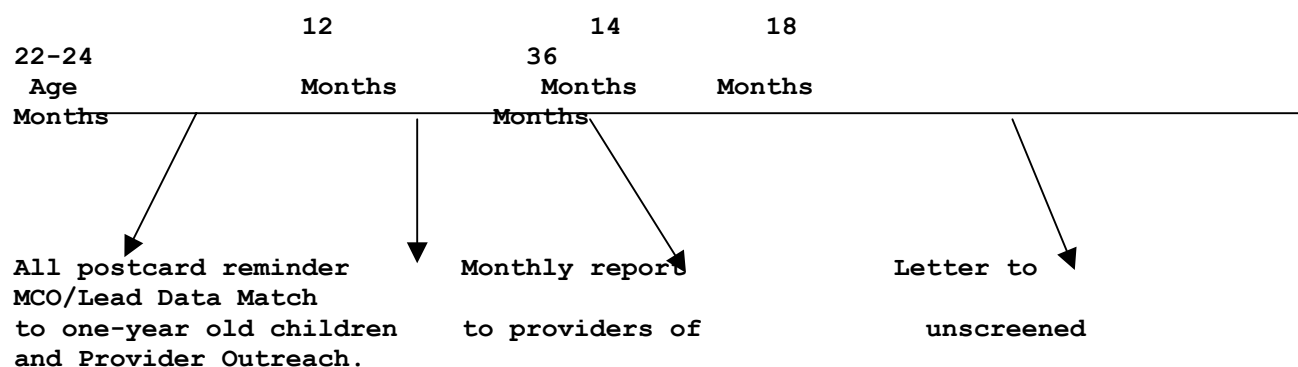
The Lead Program is also currently piloting a monthly provider/practice report of children turning 15 months of age that appear to be unscreened. This report is submitted to the provider in the month prior to the

child's 15 Month Well-Child Visit, so that any needed lead screening may be arranged for the upcoming 15 Month appointment. Once report adjustments have been made in response to the pilot, the report will be made available to all KIDSNET providers. With the future implementation of a web-enabled KIDSNET data system (2004), the report will also be accessible for providers online.

In addition, three major Rhode Island Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) continue to work with the Lead Program to match data and produce quarterly reports of children 22-24 months of age within their plan that appear to be without a lead screening. The plans then utilize this data to notify providers across the state of any unscreened children within this birth cohort in their practice, offering follow-up services as needed.

The Lead Program is also currently designing a Provider report of children in a practice that have received 2 or more lead screens by their third birthday, with the first and last lead screenings at least 12 months apart. This new report, yet to be developed, addresses the recommendation in the lead screening guidelines that states children under six be tested on a yearly basis for lead poisoning.

Below is a timeline of the lead screening outreach efforts put forth by the CLPPP. In the future, with the implementation of the KIDSNET systems in Lead Centers, WIC sites, and Head Start facilities, the CLPPP will have ample opportunity for outreach efforts through organizations that target hard-to-reach populations of children consistently overlooked by current methods of lead-screening outreach.



unscreened children. children.
*The KIDSNET/Lead QA visits to KIDSNET Providers include children aged 15-36 months.

PLEASE NOTE: HEALTH's URL has changed from www.healthri.org to www.health.ri.gov